

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01

OIC-02 IOE-00 AID-05 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-02

H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OES-03 /108 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8917

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV

SUBJECT: HABITAT PREP COM - AGENDA THEMES AND ISSUES

1. THE PRINCIPAL OUTCOME OF THE PREP COM WAS A PAPER OUTLINING THE AGENDA THEMES AND ISSUES (BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM).

2. IN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE WHICH PREPARED THE PAPER, A RATHER SERIOUS DISPUTE AROSE BETWEEN THE LATIN AMERICANS, PRIMARILY COLOMBIA, AND REPS FROM OTHER REGIONS. THE LATIN AMERICANS WERE CONCERNED THAT THE KIND OF IDEAS BEING FLOATED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WOULD TURN THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE INTO AN OVERWHELMINGLY ACADEMIC ONE. AS BRITO, THE BRAZILIAN REP, SUGGESTED PRIVATELY- A SERIES OF TECHNICAL SEMINARS WOULD BE BETTER SUITED TO THAT KIND OF AGENDA. THE LATIN AMERICANS PRESSED FOR A MORE "PROBLEM" OR "ISSUE" ORIENTED AGENDA AND A TENTATIVE LIST OF SUCH ISSUES WAS ULTIMATELY INCLUDED IN THE WORKING PARTY'S DRAFT REPORT. THIS IS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE A STRONGER POLITICAL CONTENT.

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3. THE WORKING PARTY DRAFT WAS ITSELF A HASTILY PUT TOGETHER COMPROMISE OF THESE TWO VIEWS. AS A RESULT, IT CONTAINS AMBIGUITIES WHICH GENERATED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION. IN OUR INITIAL REACTION TO IT WE WERE QUITE CRITICAL ON THE GROUNDS, BASICALLY, OF LACK OF CLARITY IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITS SEVERAL PARTS AND ALSO THAT IT SEEMED TO BE LEADING IN THE DIRECTION OF PRESCRIPTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, IN SUBSEQUENT CORRIDOR CONVERSATION, PARTICULARLY WITH THE DUTCH, WE FOUND THAT THEY SHARED MANY OF OUR THOUGHTS AS TO HOW THE DOCUMENT MIGHT BE IMPROVED. THEY MADE THESE SUGGESTIONS IN DEBATE, AND WE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ABLE TO MAKE A SHORT STATEMENT, ASSOCIATING OURSELVES WITH THE VIEWS THEY EXPRESSED (WHICH HAD SUPPORT FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL).

4. THE GENERAL TENOR OF DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT INDICATED THAT MANY DELS HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT IT, BUT NEVERTHELESS DID NOT WANT COMPROMISE TO BECOME UNSTUCK. COMMITTEE THEREFORE DECIDED TO REQUEST SECRETARIAT TO REVISE IT. FORMULATION OF THIS REQUEST, FOR A TIME, BECAME A SERIOUS ISSUE.

5. CERTAIN DELS (AUSTRALIANS AND SOVIETS) WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT SECRETARIAT DID NOT IGNORE THE WORKING PARTY PAPER AND THEREFORE PROPOSED TO MAKE IT ANNEX TO COMMITTEE REPORT. PENALOSA WAS FURIOUS (IN PRIVATE) AT WHAT HE FELT WAS IMPLICIT CHARGE OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM. HOWEVER ISSUE WAS RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT TO REQUEST SYG TO REVISE THE PAPER AND TO ATTACH REVISED VERSION TO THE PREP COM REPORT. IN MAKING REVISIONS, THE SECRETARIAT WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY DELS.

6. SECRETARIAT'S REVISION WILL BE CIRCULATED IN TIME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETINGS IN MAY AND JUNE. PAPER WILL BE PUT IN FINAL FORM BY AUGUST PREP COM WHICH WILL MEET AUGUST 25-29.

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